THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A Centrally sponsored scheme for Computerisation of Land Records (CLR) was started in the year 1988-1989 with 100% financial support from the Government of India. At present, the scheme is being implemented in 32 States/Union Territories covering 582 districts in the country. Funds have also been provided to States for setting up of Computer centres in 3325 tehsils/taluks/blocks and 562 sub-divisions in the country. So far Rs. 346.13 crores have been released to States/UTs for the implementation of the Scheme of CLR.

Consideration of Assam as a special category State

3106. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether the Government of India will consider Assam as a special category State in the matter of economic development without asking the State to contribute its share as it cannot do so due to annual natural calamity with heavy floods damaging the existing structures of roads, bridges every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): There is no proposal with the Ministry of Rural Development to consider Assam as a special category State in the matter of economic development without asking the State to constribute its share, in those schemes where the State has to contribute a certain share.

Income gap between rural and urban population

3107. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a gradual rise in the income gap between the rural and urban population;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what plan of action Government have in mind to reduce this gap; and

(d) what steps Government have so far taken to reduce this gap.